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For immediate release

Ouachita Opera Theatre to present opera "The Old Maid and the Thief" Nov. 1-4

By Meagan Woodard

October 26, 2018

For more information, contact OBU's news bureau at newsbureau@obu.edu or (870) 245-5208

ARKADELPHIA, Ark.—Ouachita Baptist University Opera Theatre will present Gian Carlo Menotti's radio opera *The Old Maid and the Thief* Nov. 1-4. Shows will run Thursday, Nov. 1, through Saturday, Nov. 3, at 7:30 p.m. with a matinee performance on Sunday, Nov. 4, at 2:30 p.m. in Jones Performing Arts Center.

This one act, comic radio opera—which was adapted for the stage following its successful radio premiere in 1939—tells the story of a spinster, Miss Todd, and her maid, Laetitia, who welcome an attractive beggar into their home. The story unfolds as the women's gossip, lies and secrets lead to keeping the beggar around, even if it means breaking the law.

"Come prepared to laugh!" said John Alec Briggs, lecturer of music and co-director of the opera. "Opera is so often thought of as being very serious, but this show is full of laughter and hijinks."

The Old Maid and the Thief is comprised of only four character roles, so the roles are double and triple cast to give more students the opportunity to perform. With the different ensembles, Briggs said every show is sure to be unlike the one before it.

"Each character in the show has their own endearing qualities," Briggs said. "Watching their interactions on stage and how they deal with the situations they find themselves in reveals much about what drives each character."

The cast is composed of students majoring in musical theatre and vocal music performance. The cast is also accompanied by an orchestra of instrumental music majors. "There wouldn't be a show without our orchestra," Briggs said.

Tickets for *The Old Maid and the Thief* are \$12 each and can be purchased online at www.obu.edu/boxoffice or from the Ouachita Box Office weekdays from 1-5 p.m. For more information, contact the box office during business hours at (870) 245-5555.

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